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ABSTRACT

This book provides a study of the historical evolution of the idea of liberal education. The volume portrays this evolution as a struggle between two contending points of view--one oratorical and the other philosophical--that have interacted, often controversially, from antiquity to present. The study attempts to shed light on the meaning of the phrase "liberal education" and what the purpose and method of undergraduate education should be. Chapters are: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "Foundation of the Artes Liberales"; (3) "Rise of the Philosophical Tradition in the High Middle Ages"; (4) "Renaissance Humanists and Reformation Preachers"; (5) "Emergence of the Liberal-Free Ideal"; (6) "Confrontation in America of the Oratorical and Philosophical Traditions"; and (7) "A Typology of Contemporary Discussion." (RJC)

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